

THE MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB, INC.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



THE MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB INC.

Papers of first two seasons and founding info

of our Club.

(AND PRESIDENTS FROM 1916 thru--1923)

Past Presidents MRAC

Dr. L.S.Baird	-----9HO	-1916-17
Dr. L.S.Baird	-----9HO	-1919020
C.N.Crape	-----9VD	-1920-21
D.J.Gellerup	9AOE	-1921-22
H.F. Wareing	-----W9NY	-1922-23

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Dec.-5th-1919

Reported on page-14 of

Jan.-1920--QST--

7th Body Affiliated

Inc.-March-10th-1923

Registers Office

Milwaukee County

Recorded in Vol 50 of Corp.'s

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by L. S. Baird, Past President

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was founded in January, 1917, by L. S. Baird, A. C. Kletzsch, Jr., J. B. Hitz, and Alonzo Pawling. In its pre-war existence it could have been characterized as the junior amateur radio organization of the City. This existence being one of but a few months, all the early members were drawn from but a limited section of the City.

Previous to the founding of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club two of the local high schools had organized radio clubs, and one or two other attempts were made to found local wireless clubs, but with one exception none endured long. This exception was the Milwaukee Radio Association, which at the time of the founding of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club constituted the senior radio association of Milwaukee. This Association did not survive the war and period of government ban on amateur radio activities. Its post-war membership was absorbed by the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Among these members were Robert Miregler, C. F. Bates, L. J. Prahl, and L. A. Degner. The Milwaukee Boy Scout Radio Club was founded at about the same time, but existed for only a short period while its members were receiving instruction in elementary radio from a member of the faculty of the School of Engineering. Some of its members joined the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

In the spring of 1919 and shortly after the government ban on amateur radio activities was removed, a meeting of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was held and plans were made for the coming club season of 1919-1920. A careful survey of the City was made and a list of all amateurs was compiled. This list was the nucleus of the complete record of all amateurs in the City that the Club now keeps. The Trustees' Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum, which has a seating capacity of about one hundred, was secured as a hall for the Club to convene in.

At the first meetings in the fall of 1919 a new constitution was adopted and officers elected and installed. The officers were L. S. Baird, President; C. N. Crapo, Vice President; R. A. Teschan, Secretary; T. V. Weston, Treasurer; and R. A. Pelishek, Business Manager. Others prominent in the direction were:

C. S. Polacheck, C. M. Prinslow, A. C. Kletzsch, Jr., and A. B. Lord.

The Club became affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, Inc. and L. A. Degner, a member, was appointed City Manager. Many other events, both business and social, took place this year.

The Club opened the season of 1920-1921 with L. S. Baird, Chairman of the Board of Direction; C. N. Crapo, President; A. B. Lord, Vice President; Louis Heyman, Secretary; and E. W. Ruppenthal, Treasurer and Business Manager. Mr. Crapo succeeded Mr. Degner as City Manager for the American Radio Relay League, Inc. Meetings were held this season in a lecture room in the Old Insurance Bldg. obtained thru the courtesy of the School of Engineering of Milwaukee. The Milwaukee membership of the now defunct Wisconsin Radio League, which had been founded by M. B. Grogan and R. F. Laidlaw, was absorbed by the Club. Mr. Grogan became the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club's publicity manager. Before the organization of the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council, the Club became affiliated with the Chicago Executive Council (Radio). The "Chicago Plan" for control of radio traffic was adopted and enforced first by the Club and then by the Milwaukee Council. It was thru the efforts of the leaders of the Club that the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council was formed. This Club and several others are represented in the Council. The season was closed by a successful social and dance held in the dining room of the St. James Episcopal Church.

The season of 1921-1922 was opened with the following officers: L. S. Baird, Past President; C. N. Crapo, Chairman of the Board of Direction; D. J. Gellerupt, President; H. F. Wareing, Vice President; L. W. Klingbiel, Secretary; and E. W. Ruppenthal, Treasurer and Business Manager.

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The Club has several committees thru which much of its work is accomplished. Membership in one or more of these committees entitles the radio amateur to become actively engaged in the solution of the problems of local radio organization. There is a Committee on Interference and Relay which has for its duty to cooperate with the A. R. R. L. City Manager in the solving of problems of local radio traffic. Some other committees, the work of which is obvious from their names, are the Committee on Papers and Publications, Program Committee, Publicity Committee, and the Committee on Research and Development. The work of the last-named committee is shortly to be transferred to a radio laboratory founded by several radio club members.

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three classes of membership viz: Member, Associate, and Junior. Dues for the first two classes are fifty cents a month and for Juniors, twenty-five cents. An initiation fee of one dollar is charged. The Direction of the Club is especially desirous of having for members all local members of the A. R. R. L., making the Club a real local section of the League.

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Milwaukee's radio traffic organization and traffic conditions will be discussed in another article under the heading of the Milwaukee Radio Executive Council.

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